

The Agency

Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority

Agency Operations

The Higher Education Assistance Authority administers three major programs. The Scholarship and Grant Program includes the State Grant Program, the scholar recognition program, the campus-based work opportunity program, a student intern program, and a student community service program. The Loan Program includes the Federal Family Education Loan program (FFELP), and the Health Professions Contract Program. The CollegeBound*fund*® Program, a “qualified state tuition program” under section 529 of the IRS code, encourages qualified students, parents, and others responsible for paying the cost of higher education to plan/save for college by investing contributions that will grow tax free each year until applied toward college costs.

The Authority is governed by an eleven (11) member Board of Directors, five (5) of whom are appointed by the Governor for staggered terms; two (2) who represent the finance committees of the House and Senate (one each, currently removed), two (2) representing the Board of Governors for Higher Education, the State General Treasurer or his/her designee, and the Chairman of the Rhode Island Independent Higher Education Association or his/her designee. The Board of Directors elects its own chairperson and other officers and appoints an Executive Director to head the authority. The authority receives its funding from the general fund and from several non-state sources, including the federal government. State general revenues support the scholarship, grant, and student employment programs, as well as the administrative costs for these programs. A small amount of federal funds (LEAP/SLEAP) is also received for direct grants for students. Revenues from program operations and cost reimbursements from the federal government fund the entire Loan Program. Proceeds from the CollegeBound*fund*® program operations support the administrative and marketing expenses associated with the program, and provide supplemental funds to the State Scholarship and Grant Program. Additionally, the CollegeBound*fund*® revenues provide funding for the Academic Promise Scholarship Program and 5 & 10 Matching Grant Program.

Agency Objectives

The Higher Education Assistance Authority was created to provide a system of financial assistance programs, consisting of the Scholarship and Grant Program, Loan Guarantees, College Savings Program, and other aids, which promote opportunity for post-secondary education by providing financial assistance to qualified students, parents, and others responsible for paying the cost of education, who are restricted from participating in post-secondary education because of insufficient financial resources, to help them meet their educational/career goals beyond the high school level.

Statutory History

The Higher Education Assistance Authority was created in 1977 to administer the grant, scholarship, and loan programs for the State of Rhode Island, replacing an existing loan entity and assuming some functions of the Department of Education. Title 16 Chapter 56 and 57 of the Rhode Island General Laws establish and provide for the organization, functions, and statutory award formula of the Authority.

The Budget

Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Revised	FY 2007 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Scholarship and Grants	11,427,719	10,392,223	8,151,056	9,794,430
Loans	7,104,752	6,928,419	11,958,150	12,505,284
Tuition Savings	3,967,933	5,970,346	9,008,948	7,458,298
Total Expenditures	\$22,500,404	\$23,290,988	\$29,118,154	\$29,758,012
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	6,453,778	6,249,548	10,130,074	10,506,777
Other State Operations	2,229,827	1,981,829	3,500,688	3,761,712
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	13,816,799	15,059,611	15,487,392	15,489,523
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$22,500,404	\$23,290,988	\$29,118,154	\$29,758,012
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$22,500,404	\$23,290,988	\$29,118,154	\$29,758,012
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	11,051,447	9,956,900	9,929,028	9,372,402
Federal Funds	7,481,024	7,360,608	12,380,178	12,927,312
Other Funds	3,967,933	5,973,480	6,808,948	7,458,298
Total Expenditures	\$22,500,404	\$23,290,988	\$29,118,154	\$29,758,012
FTE Authorization	45.6	46.0	46.0	45.6
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	4.5%	6.7%	7.0%	7.0%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	75.0%	73.3%	71.6%	74.4%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	6.8%	6.7%	7.0%	7.0%
Program Measures				
Percentage of Eligible Students Receiving Grants	48.5%	58.6%	55.5%	48.6%
Average Grant Award	\$1,101	\$1,079	\$1,100	\$1,100
State Grant as a Percentage of Unmet Need Prior to State Grants	14.3%	14.1%	13.7%	12.9%